

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims

Applicants have canceled claims 1, 38, 41, 42, 44, and 116, without prejudice.

Applicants have added new claims 117-144. Support for the new claims may be found, *inter alia*, as shown in the table below:

New Claim(s)	Support in Former Claims and Specification
117-119	paragraphs [0198], [0199], and [0204]
120	original claim 22
121	original claim 24
122	original claim 27
123	original claim 30
124	original claims 31 and 32
125	original claim 37
126	original claim 35
127	original claim 36
128	original claim 33
129	paragraphs [0198] and [0219]
130	paragraph [0219]
131	original claim 38
132	original claim 39
133, 134	paragraphs [0153]-[0155], [0199], and [0204]
135	paragraphs [0153]-[0155], original claim 22
136	p. 13, item 58; paragraphs [0017], [0030], and [0153]-[0155]
137	paragraphs [0153]-[0155], original claim 27
138	paragraphs [0153]-[0155], original claim 30
139	paragraphs [0153]-[0155], original claims 31 and 32
140	paragraphs [0153]-[0155], original claim 37
141	paragraphs [0153]-[0155], original claim 35
142	paragraphs [0153]-[0155], original claim 36
143	paragraphs [0153]-[0155], [0198], and [0219]
144	paragraphs [0153]-[0155] and [0219]

Applicants have amended claim 19 to refer to a “plurality of DNAs encoding a plurality of different RNAs, wherein each DNA further encodes a nucleic acid tag sequence, and wherein at least a subset of the plurality of DNAs encodes the same nucleic acid tag sequence.”

Further, applicants have amended claim 19 to refer to a “same signaling probe that produces a detectable signal upon hybridization to said same nucleic acid tag sequence.” Support for these amendments may be found, *inter alia*, in original claims 20 and 23.

Applicants have amended claim 25 to refer to the step of “generating a plurality of cell lines by culturing the isolated cells.” Support for this amendment may be found, *inter alia*, in original claim 26.

Applicants have amended claim 34 to depend from claim 19 and to recite “wherein said plurality of DNAs encodes at least one antisense RNA, shRNA, or siRNA.” Support for this amendment may be found, *inter alia*, on p. 13, item 58 and in paragraphs [0017], [0030], and [0153]-[0155] of the specification as originally filed.

Applicants have amended claims 46 and 49 to refer to a plurality of cells, thereby improving their form.

Applicants have amended claim 103 to refer to a library of cell lines generated by growing the plurality of cells of claim 46. Support for this amendment may be found, *inter alia*, in original claim 26.

Applicants have amended claim 109 to refer to a library “wherein at least two of said cell lines comprise a variable library sequence,” thereby improving its form.

Applicants have rewritten claim 114 as a method of using the library of claim 103 in a cell-based screening assay.

Finally, applicants have amended claims 19, 21, 49, 50, and 110 to correct grammatical errors and/or to improve their form.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue any canceled subject matter in subsequent applications that claim benefit from this application. Upon entry of the amendments,

claims 19, 21, 25, 34, 46, 49, 50, 103, 109, 110, 114, and 117-144 will be pending in this application.

None of the above amendments adds new matter. Their entry is respectfully requested.

The Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required restriction of the claims in this application under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372 to one of the following alleged Groups:

- Group I: claims 1 and 25, drawn to a method of isolating cells;
- Group II: claims 19, 21, and 25, drawn to a method of isolating a plurality of cells;
- Group III: claim 34, drawn to a method of isolating cells via antisense RNA or shRNA;
- Group IV: claim 38, drawn to a method of identifying a compound;
- Group V: claims 41 and 42, drawn to a method of identifying a compound;
- Group VI: claim 44, drawn to a method of identifying genetic recombination;
- Group VII: claims 46 and 49, drawn to a cell;
- Group VIII: claim 50, drawn to a method of generating a transgenic animal;
- Group IX: claims 103, 109, 110, and 114, drawn to a library of mammalian cells; and
- Group X: claim 116, drawn to a method of identifying a compound.

The Examiner contends that Groups I-X lack unity of invention under PCT Rule 13.1. According to the Examiner:

The common technical feature is a cell “potentially expressing RNA” which is known in the art. For example, Tsuji et al. (Biophysical Journal 78:3260-3274, 2000; provided by applicants in the IDS) teach cells comprising mRNA and methods of analyzing mRNA in cells via utilization of two fluorescently labeled oligos which can hybridize to the mRNA. (Office Action, p. 3.)

The Examiner concludes that Groups I-X “lack the same or corresponding special technical features” under PCT Rule 13.2 (Office Action, p. 3).

In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicants elect the subject matter of Group II (claims 19, 21, and 25) for substantive examination in this application. Claims 34, 46, 49, 50, 103, 109, 110, 114, and new claims 117-144 depend from claim 19 and form part of the same inventive concept. Accordingly, claims 19, 21, 25, 34, 46, 49, 50, 103, 109, 110, 114, and 117-144 read on Group II.

Applicants make the foregoing election expressly without waiver of their rights to file for and obtain claims directed to non-elected subject matter in one or more patent applications claiming priority from this application under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

CONCLUSION

Applicants request favorable consideration of the application as amended and early allowance of the pending claims. To that end, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss any issue pertaining to this reply.

Respectfully submitted,

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